(d) what steps would be taken to improve the success rate of launches of space vehicles and rockets, etc. by ISRO in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Twenty vehicles have been flown since 1980 including the recent flight of GSLV-F02. Out of these, 4 flights have been failures.

(c) During the development phase of complex launch vehicles, since 1979, there were 3 failures in 8 launches. The failure rate of our operational launchers PSLV and GSLV is low-2 out of 13 launches (about 15.38%). Failure rates of launchers vary from country to country and are in the range of 7% to 17% for major space faring nations.

(d) A Failure Analysis Committee (FAC) has been set up with experts from ISRO, academia and national research laboratory to ascertain the reasons of failure. The Committee is expected to submit its findings within one month. The corrective measures would be formulated after the FAC submits its findings.

Recommendations of Expert Committee

*177. SHRI DHARM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the specific recommendations of the Tejinder Khanna Committee on unauthorised constructions regarding allowing/regularizing and additional dwelling unit besides the three dwelling units presently allowed on residential plots;

(b) the stand of Government with regard to these recommendations of the Committee;

(c) the action taken to accept and notify the recommendations to bring relief to the residents of Delhi at the earliest; and

(d) whether the recommendations would be incorporated in the New Master Plan for 2021 and by when the new plan is likely to be notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) In its Report submitted to the Government on 13.5.2006, the Tejendra Khanna Committee has expressed the view that in order to deal with the unauthorised construction, compounding fee can be imposed for extra coverage of floor area and for violation of height restrictions and building an additional floor or part thereof, a severer scale of penalty/special compounding

fee can be imposed on the violator. The Committee has not made any specific recommendation regarding allowing/regularising additional dwelling unit on residential plots.

The Government has examined the recommendations of the Committee in consultation with local bodies and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and has decided to undertake modification of the development control norms in respect of plotted residential development by amendment to the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2001, since the proposed MPD 2021 is only at the draft stage.

Accordingly, as per the statutory procedure DDA has issued a public notice on 21.7.2006 with the approval of Government, under section 11 A of Delhi Development Act, 1957 calling for suggestions and objections from the public within a period of 30 days to the proposed modifications in the Master Plan for Delhi 2001.

It may be mentioned that all amendments carried out in the MPD 2001 till the date of final notification of MPD 2021 will automatically get incorporated in the final MPD 2021.

Independent news channel

*178. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to promote a independent international-news channel based out of India to counter the bias of existing international news channels;

(b) if so, the details of the plan and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the details of the steps being planned to ensrue autonomy and independence of the news channels to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Government is exploring various options of projecting India's economic, social and cultural development to the rest of the world, including the feasibility of an International Television Channel. Since the deliberations are in a nascent stage, no action plan or time-frame can be indicated.

Opening of Nathu-La Pass

*179. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: